

## BIOPOLITICS THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### [The Honorable Dr. Nurettin Sozen](#)

Mayor of Istanbul  
Turkey

Please allow me to express my great pleasure for the realization of the Fifth International Conference of the Biopolitics International Organisation in Istanbul. I would also like to thank the President of the B.I.O., Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis and her colleagues for the decision to hold this conference in our city.

The assembly of so many scientists and specialists from various fields, civilizations and countries, with diverse levels of development, is proof that humanity may easily overcome ideological differences in order to implement a common goal: preventing the bio-environment from the negative impact of progress and capitalist growth. Public opinion has realized that we share a common world and that issues related to the environment and health cannot be part of a nation's independent policy, but are global concerns of humanity. We believe that great progress has been made during the last 25 years thanks to the changes in our way of thinking as well as the efforts made by international organizations, local authorities and socio-cultural organizations.

As mayor of Istanbul, a member of the academic community and a medical doctor, I am in the pleasant position to see that humanity pays a lot of attention to the promotion of the goals of the Biopolitics International Organisation.

Progress in the second half of the 20th century is mainly focused on economic development. However, millions of people still suffer from the absence of food, housing, education, health and unemployment. As a result of environmental inputs over the last 25 years, the environment has become a problem equaling those above. Today, the inclusion of the prefix eco- in governmental policy of many countries has almost become a rule. At the threshold of the 21st century, humanity has to consider the impact to the environment caused by all kinds of economic activity. Undoubtedly, every negative impact today will have a great cost for the generations to come.

Future generations need to become aware of the necessity of preserving the bio-environment. It is very important to educate our youth on the methods of environmental protection. University courses on the environment currently taught in both the higher schools of social sciences and the technical institutions are not sufficient. There is a great distance to cover towards more mature education, leading to an environmental orientation of political decision-making in all fields. Our hope is that international meetings will help to highlight potential initiatives that may be undertaken either in the social or technical field. Unfortunately, in Turkey we still try to solve the problems of public hygiene with legal regulations dating back to 1930. There is great need for closer cooperation between the government and the local authorities, accompanied by continued support from the public.

In dealing with environmental issues, we may benefit from the experiments that have been implemented worldwide on a large scale in sectors such as law, public administration, and technology. Apart from dealing with the vision of the environment, the Biopolitics International Organisation encompasses the value of all living species as a tangible ideal. This view constitutes a remarkable change in our moral consciousness, since the present and future survival of all organisms, including man, is a vision far beyond the limited scope of the concept of environment.

Political and social organizations such as the B.I.O. greatly contribute to a more healthy and happy life for humanity in the 21st century. In this manner, the responsibility for the future of humanity lies solely in the hands of sensitized and committed individuals. We are glad to observe that the examples of international cooperation on the above fields are being continuously broadened.

The sensitization of the citizens of Istanbul on environmental issues greatly enhances the efforts of municipal authorities. Moreover, cooperation with the central government is needed in order to protect the quality of life of our people. It is our conviction that the discussions held during this meeting will help promote public and private democratic initiatives in the fields discussed above.

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**Professor Nur Sozen** completed her doctoral studies at Ankara University. In 1988, she became full professor at the Department of Landscape Architecture and, from 1988-1992, also co-ordinated the university's international relations activities. Since 1993, she has been Local Director of the Med-Campus project on "Masters Degree Courses on Environmental Management." She is also on the steering

committee of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agricultural Studies. Professor Sozen has published extensively and her area of expertise includes all aspects of environmental issues.